

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.       A method for preventing dopant leaching from a doped structural film  
2 during fabrication of a microelectromechanical system, the method comprising:

3                   producing a microstructure that includes the doped structural film, sacrificial  
4 material, and metallic material by a combination of techniques selected from the group  
5 consisting of deposition, patterning, and etching;

6                   dissolving the sacrificial material with a release solution, the release solution  
7 comprising a substance destructive to the sacrificial material and acting as an electrolyte to  
8 form a galvanic cell with the doped structural film and metallic material acting as electrodes;  
9 and

10                  suppressing effects of the galvanic cell by including a nonionic detergent  
11 mixed in the release solution.

1                   2.       The method recited in claim 1 wherein the release solution comprises  
2 an acid.

1                   3.       The method recited in claim 2 wherein the acid is HF.

1                   4.       The method recited in claim 1 wherein the doped structural film  
2 comprises a doped semiconductor.

1                   5.       The method recited in claim 4 wherein the doped structural film  
2 comprises doped silicon.

1                   6.       The method recited in claim 5 wherein the doped structural film  
2 comprises doped polysilicon.

1                   7.       The method recited in claim 1 wherein the sacrificial material  
2 comprises an oxide.

1                   8.       The method recited in claim 7 wherein the oxide is a silicon oxide.

1                   9.       The method recited in claim 7 wherein the oxide comprises alumina.

1                   10.      The method recited in claim 1 wherein the sacrificial material  
2 comprises a nitride.

- 1                    11.    The method recited in claim 10 wherein the nitride is a silicon nitride.
- 1                    12.    The method recited in claim 7 wherein the sacrificial material  
2 comprises photoresist.
- 1                    13.    The method recited in claim 1 wherein the metallic material comprises  
2 gold.
- 1                    14.    The method recited in claim 1 wherein the metallic material comprises  
2 aluminum.
- 1                    15.    The method recited in claim 1 wherein the metallic material comprises  
2 copper.
- 1                    16.    The method recited in claim 1 wherein the metallic material comprises  
2 platinum.
- 1                    17.    The method recited in claim 1 wherein the metallic material comprises  
2 nickel
- 1                    18.    The method recited in claim 1 wherein the nonionic detergent  
2 comprises an alkyl group and a polyether-linked hydroxy group commonly linked to an aryl  
3 group.
- 1                    19.    The method recited in claim 18 wherein the nonionic detergent  
2 comprises a Triton X™ detergent.
- 1                    20.    The method recited in claim 18 wherein the nonionic detergent  
2 comprises Triton X-100.™
- 1                    21.    The method recited in claim 20 wherein the Triton X-100™ is included  
2 in the release solution with a concentration approximately between 0.01 and 0.1 vol. %.
- 1                    22.    The method recited in claim 1 wherein the nonionic detergent  
2 comprises Igepal CA-630.™
- 1                    23.    The method recited in claim 1 wherein the nonionic detergent  
2 comprises Nonidet P-40.™

1                   24.     The method recited in claim 1 wherein the nonionic detergent  
2 comprises a hydrophilic moiety and a hydrophobic moiety commonly linked to an aryl group.

1                   25.     The method recited in claim 1 wherein the microelectromechanical  
2 system is surface micromachined.

1                   26.     The method recited in claim 1 wherein the microelectromechanical  
2 system comprises part of a mirror array for use in a wavelength router.

1                   27.     A microelectromechanical system made according to the method  
2 recited in claim 1.

1                   28.     A method for preventing dopant leaching from a doped polysilicon  
2 structural film during fabrication of a surface micromachined mirror array having a plurality  
3 of moveable reflective surfaces for use in a wavelength router, the method comprising:  
4                   producing a mirror microstructure that includes the doped polysilicon,  
5 sacrificial silicon oxide material, and gold by a combination of techniques selected from the  
6 group consisting of deposition, patterning, and etching;  
7                   dissolving the silicon oxide material with a release solution, the release  
8 solution comprising HF and acting as an electrolyte forming a galvanic cell with the doped  
9 polysilicon structural film and gold acting as electrodes; and  
10                  suppressing effects of the galvanic cell by including a nonionic detergent  
11 mixed in the release solution.

1                   29.     The method recited in claim 28 wherein the nonionic detergent  
2 comprises an alkyl group and a polyether-linked hydroxy group commonly linked to an aryl  
3 group.

1                   30.     The method recited in claim 29 wherein the nonionic detergent  
2 comprises a Triton X™ detergent.

1                   31.     The method recited in claim 29 wherein the nonionic detergent  
2 comprises Triton X-100.™

1                   32.     The method recited in claim 28 wherein the nonionic detergent  
2 comprises a hydrophilic moiety and a hydrophobic moiety commonly linked to an aryl group.

1                   33.     A surface micromachined mirror array made according to the method  
2 recited in claim 28.

1                   34.     A method for fabricating a routing mechanism for use in a wavelength  
2 router of the type configured to receive, at an input port, light having a plurality of spectral  
3 bands and to direct subsets of the spectral bands to respective ones of a plurality of output  
4 ports by providing optical paths in a free-space optical train disposed between the input ports  
5 and the output ports and by providing the routing mechanism to direct a given spectral band  
6 to different output ports depending on a state of a dynamically configurable routing unit in  
7 the routing mechanism, the method comprising:

8                   forming a plurality of such dynamically configurable routing units on a doped  
9 structural film with sacrificial material and metallic material by a combination of techniques  
10 selected from the group consisting of deposition, patterning, and etching;

11                   dissolving the sacrificial material with a release solution, the release solution  
12 comprising a substance destructive to the sacrificial material and acting as an electrolyte  
13 forming a galvanic cell with the doped structural film and metallic material acting as  
14 electrodes; and

15                   suppressing the effects of the galvanic cell by including a nonionic detergent  
16 mixed in the release solution,

17                   whereby dopant leaching from the doped structural film due to the effects of  
18 the galvanic cell is suppressed.

1                   35.     The method recited in claim 34 wherein the nonionic detergent  
2 comprises an alkyl group and a polyether-linked hydroxy group commonly linked to an aryl  
3 group.

1                   36.     The method recited in claim 35 wherein the nonionic detergent  
2 comprises a Triton X™ detergent.

1                   37.     The method recited in claim 35 wherein the nonionic detergent  
2 comprises Triton X-100.™

1                   38.     The method recited in claim 34 wherein the nonionic detergent  
2 comprises a hydrophilic moiety and a hydrophobic moiety commonly linked to an aryl group.

1                    39.     The method recited in claim 34 wherein the release solution comprises  
2     HF, the doped structural film comprises doped polysilicon, the sacrificial material comprises  
3     a silicon oxide, the metallic material comprises gold, and the nonionic detergent comprises  
4     Triton X-100.™

1                    40.     A routing mechanism made according to the method recited in claim  
2     39.

1                    41.     A routing mechanism made according to the method recited in claim  
2     34.

1                    42.     A wavelength router comprising a routing mechanism made according  
2     to the method recited in claim 34.